Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: August – October 2018 Issue date: 19.07.18

The forecast presented here is for August and the average of the August-September-October period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for August will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/ public/ weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 1st August 2018.

This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement.

SUMMARY – TEMPERATURE:

For August, and for August-September-October as a whole, above-average temperatures are more likely than below-average temperatures.

Overall, the probability that the UK-average temperature for August-September-October will fall into the coldest of our five categories is less than 5%, and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is around 55% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a neutral phase (neither El Niño nor La Niña). Long-range predictions indicate that development of El Niño conditions is more likely than not by the end of the outlook period. Nevertheless, at this time of year there are only weak connections between ENSO and the UK. As a result, it is expected to have little influence on conditions in the next 3 months. Sea surface temperatures in the Northern North Atlantic Ocean continue to be below average. This pattern moderately increases the probability of high pressure over Northern Europe. In late summer and early autumn, high pressure is associated with above-average temperatures. Sea surface temperatures close to the UK have reached near-record levels as a result of the prolonged hot and sunny weather. This also increases the chances of above-average UK temperatures, particularly in the early part of the forecast period. For August, the Met Office long-range prediction system, along with systems from other centres around the world, shows an increased chance of high-pressure patterns close to or north of the UK. This indicates that settled conditions are more probable, on average, than unsettled weather from Atlantic depressions moving across the UK. Above-average temperatures are more likely than below-average temperatures (see left-hand graph of figure T2). The chances of impacts from high temperatures are increased compared to normal. For August-September-October, the Met Office long-range prediction system, in agreement with systems from other prediction centres, shows an increased chance of high-pressure patterns close to the UK. This would result in more settled UK weather conditions overall. The likelihood of above-average temperatures is greater-than-normal, but while the chances of below-average temperatures are considerably smaller, they remain a realistic possibility (see right-hand graph of figure T2).

Fig T1

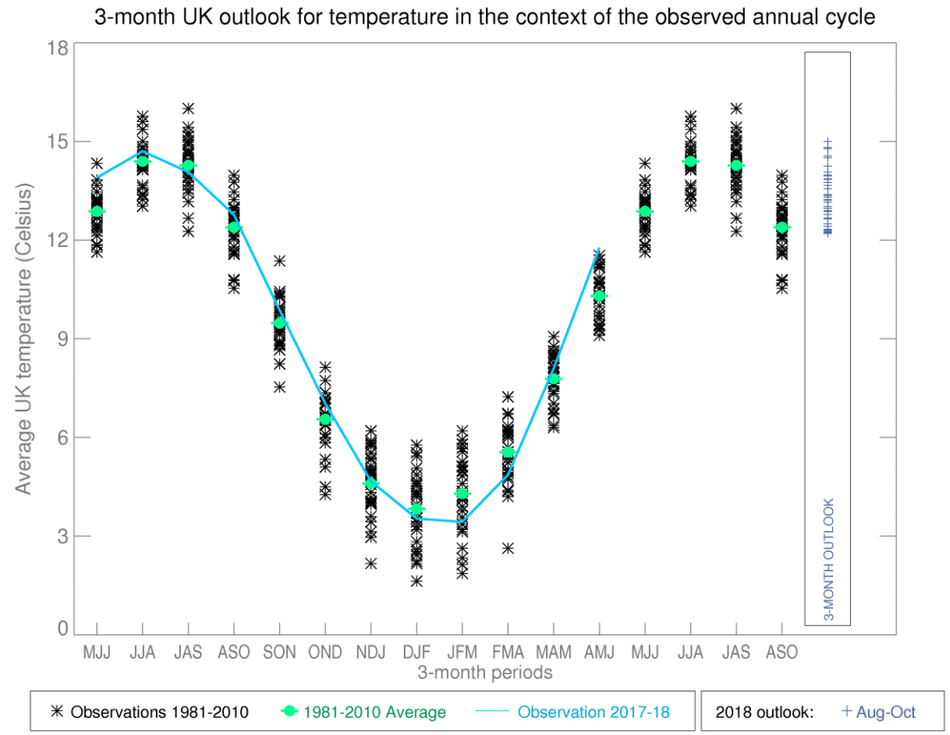

3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of the observed annual cycle
Average UK temperature (Celsius)
3-month periods
MJJ JJA JAS ASO SON OND NDJ DJF JFM FMA MAM AMJ MJJ JJA JAS ASO
3-MONTH OUTLOOK
Observations 1981-2010
1981-2010 Average
Observation 2017-18
2018 outlook: Aug-Oct

Fig T2

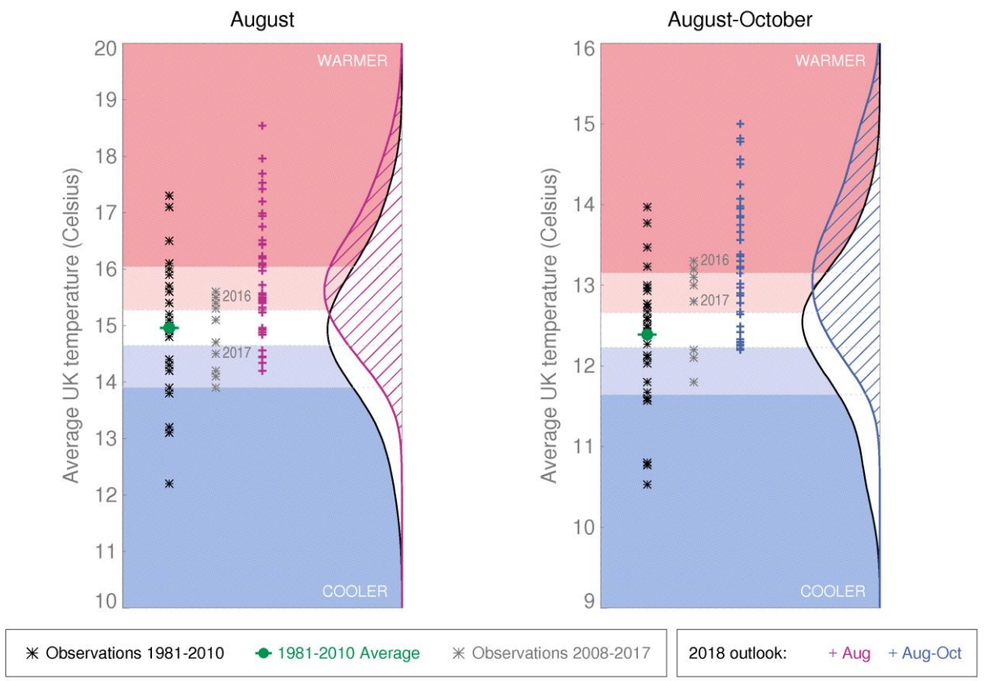
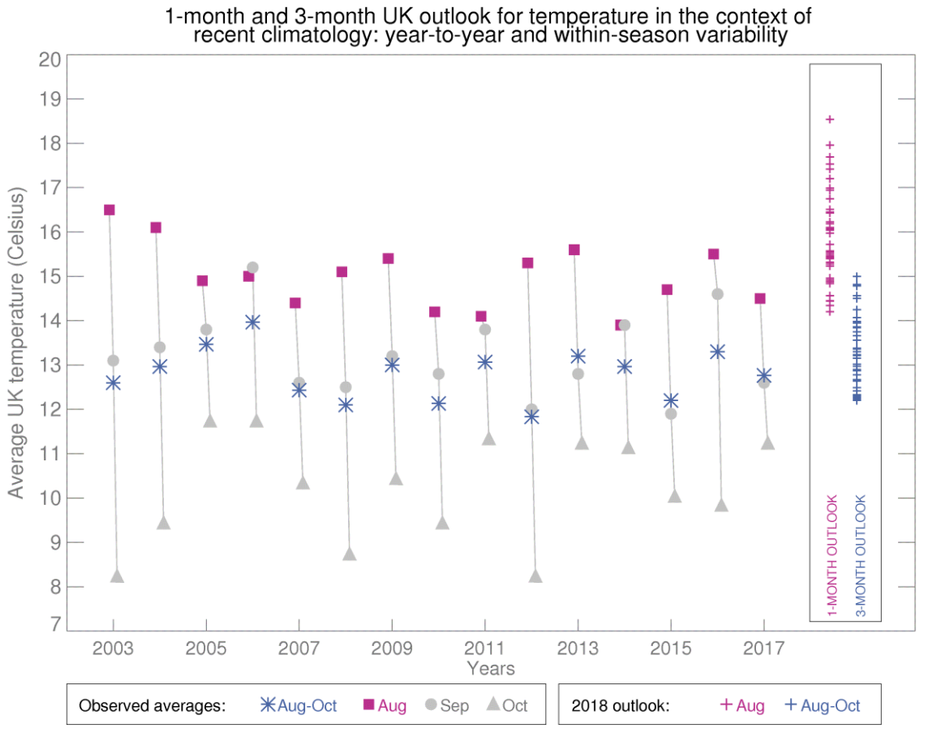


Fig T3


1-month and 3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability
Average UK temperature (Celsius)
Years
1-MONTH OUTLOOK
3-MONTH OUTLOOK
Observed averages: Aug-Oct Aug Sep Oct
2018 outlook: Aug Aug-Oct

This Outlook provides an indication of possible temperature and rainfall conditions over the next 3 months. It is part of a suite of forecasts designed for contingency planners.

The Outlook should not be used in isolation but should be used with shorter-range and more detailed (30-day, 15-day and 1-to-5-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.